



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

DEC 19 2013

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of same-sex spouse enrollment and identification (ID) card issuance at certain State National Guard ID card sites.

Consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in United States v. Windsor, the Department of Defense (DoD) began modifying the appropriate systems to allow ID card issuance to same-sex spouses.

On October 31, 2013, I requested the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to work with nine states to fully implement DoD policy by providing DoD ID cards to all eligible military spouses, regardless of sexual orientation. Following consultations between the National Guard Bureau and the Adjutants General of the states, all eligible Service members, dependents, and retirees, including same-sex spouses, are now able to obtain ID cards in every state.

All military spouses and families sacrifice on behalf of our country. They deserve our respect and the benefits they are entitled to under the law. The Department is committed to pursuing equal opportunities for all who serve this Nation.

Thank you for your continued support for our Service members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chuck Hagel", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the name.

cc:
The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman